Family Fun Day 2019

Family Fun Day 2018 was a huge success, so we decided to bring it back. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 6, 2019. Family Fun Day will be held several weeks prior to Easter in 2019. We will use many of the fun games Francine Morales, our summer camp Program Director, dreamed up for the whole family to participate. We will be providing lunch again and have a build your own ice cream sundae at 3:00 p.m. More details will follow.

Check our website at www.vranch.org.

From the Director's Desk:

By Paul Cayot

Isn’t it amazing that God knows what we need, when we need it, sometimes before we even know we have a need? I think of several instances this fall. Following summer camp, the kids and I set out across country. When I was in Idaho, I received a call that Bill Jenkin (President of Continental Baptist Missions) had invited us to stop by his cabin in Montana. I didn’t think a visit would work since I already had the route planned out and appointments already in place. When I reached Bill by phone, however, he assured me that his remote cabin was “on the way.” We took the turn-off, but when we got to the location, there were no addresses posted, just a couple gates here and there among the trees. We turned around and found a place to pull off the road and recalculate. As I looked for Bill’s phone number, I looked up, and there was a truck with Bill in it. He drove over and said, “Follow me.” He led us through a gate and down a dirt road to a beautiful cabin in the woods. The remarkable part of the story was that Bill said he has no phone service there. He was working away on his cabin when he thought, “I wonder if I gave Paul directions on how to find the gate?” He scrolled back through texts and discovered he had not. He scrambled into the truck and discovered he had not. He scrambled into the truck raced out to the road, and there we were. He asked, “How long were you waiting?” We said, “A couple minutes.” On October 16, I had a doctor’s appointment in Riverside. I was delayed leaving and wondered if I take Gilman Springs Road to the Westbound 60 or take Bridge Street to Ramona Expressway. I asked God for direction. When a truck pulled out of the gravel pit in front of me and lumbered down Gilman Springs Road, I took that as a sign from the Lord and turned on Bridge Street. It wasn’t until the next morning I read of the Moreno Valley Police chase that ended up on the Westbound 60. The reckless suspects crashed into several cars, then when their car was no longer drivable, attempted three carjackings before finally getting someone to drive them to an off-camp. I would have been in that location, and perhaps involved, if I hadn’t felt God directing me to go a different way.

Last week, I was watching my odometer turn over to 310,000 miles. As I was thanking God for that many miles on my engine, I remembered it was due for an oil change. I drained the oil, installed the filter, and then went to pour in the new oil. Next to the oil fill was the upper radiator hose, swollen to almost twice the normal size. Another praise! If I hadn’t changed the oil right then, I probably would have been on the side of the road somewhere with an overheated engine or worse. Isn’t it amazing that God knows what we need, when we need it, sometimes before we even know we have a need? I think of several instances this fall. Following summer camp, the kids and I set out across country. When I was in Idaho, I received a call that Bill Jenkin (President of Continental Baptist Missions) had invited us to stop by his cabin in Montana. I didn’t think a visit would work since I already had the route planned out and appointments already in place. When I reached Bill by phone, however, he assured me that his remote cabin was “on the way.” We took the turn-off, but when we got to the location, there were no addresses posted, just a couple gates here and there among the trees. We turned around and found a place to pull off the road and recalculate. As I looked for Bill’s phone number, I looked up, and there was a truck with Bill in it. He drove over and said, “Follow me.” He led us through a gate and down a dirt road to a beautiful cabin in the woods. The remarkable part of the story was that Bill said he has no phone service there. He was working away on his cabin when he thought, “I wonder if I gave Paul directions on how to find the gate?” He scrolled back through texts and discovered he had not. He scrambled into the truck raced out to the road, and there we were. He asked, “How long were you waiting?” We said, “A couple minutes.” On October 16, I had a doctor’s appointment in Riverside. I was delayed leaving and wandered if I take Gilman Springs Road to the Westbound 60 or take Bridge Street to Ramona Expressway. I asked God for direction. When a truck pulled out of the gravel pit in front of me and lumbered down Gilman Springs Road, I took that as a sign from the Lord and turned on Bridge Street. It wasn’t until the next morning I read of the Moreno Valley Police chase that ended up on the Westbound 60. The reckless suspects crashed into several cars, then when their car was no longer drivable, attempted three carjackings before finally getting someone to drive them to an off-camp. I would have been in that location, and perhaps involved, if I hadn’t felt God directing me to go a different way.

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As we enter this holiday season, let us not forget to take time to thank God for all He has done for us and for His everyday direction in our lives. Many times, He is very visible in the “little things” when we take time to see His provisions.

SINGSPRATIONS

The last Singspiration of 2018 will be:

• South Vermont Avenue Baptist, Gardena (December 2 – 8:00 p.m.)

Invite a friend to come join you for a good time of singing and praising the Lord.

SINGS – 2019

January 13 @ 7:30pm  Calvary Baptist Tabernacle, Gardena
February 10 @ 8:00pm  Calvary Baptist Church, Compton
March 10 @ 8:00pm  Cal. Heights Baptist Church, Long Bch.
April 28 @ 8:00pm  Bethel Baptist Church, Torrance
June 9 @ 8:00pm  Bible Baptist Church, Huntington Park
July 7 @ 8:00pm  Bible Baptist Church, Santa Monica
August 11 @ 7:30pm  First Baptist Church, El Monte
September 8 @ 8:00pm  Bible Baptist Church, Palos Verdes
October 13 @ 8:00pm  First Baptist Church, Wilmington
November 10 @ 8:00pm  First Baptist Church of Walteria
December 8 @ 8:00pm  S. Vermont Ave, Baptist Church, Gardena

Victory Ranch
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Moreno Valley, CA 92555

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At our recent Ladies’ Retreat, Eileen Wood did an excellent job speaking from her theme “Forgiven, Accepted, Loved.” There were 100 attendees present! The ladies spent time fellowshipping around four great meals, using outdoor “Family Fun Day” games, table games, and raising each other’s bids at the silent auction. Many ladies enjoyed horseback rides and archery as well.

Our Men’s Retreat two weeks later had 94 men participate! Pastor Anthony Forsyth, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Burbank, spoke on “Trusting God in the Midst of the Storm.” The men were blessed by the Solid Ground men’s trio from Sacramento. Free time activities included competitions in archery, rifle/pistol and skeet shooting, volleyball, golf chipping, ping-pong, carpetball, and horseshoes, as well as horse rides and horse drawn wagon rides.

SAVE THE DATES 📅

If you missed out on these exciting retreats, plan to join us in the spring.

March 8-9, 2019, for Ladies’ Retreat
First Baptist Church of Hesperia
will be co-hosting the ladies’ spring retreat with Ann Iorg speaking. They are anticipating having a second speaker for the Spanish speaking women in attendance.

March 22-23, 2019, for the Men’s Retreat:
Our speaker will be Evangelist Monte Leavell.

Watch for details on Spring Men’s Retreat.

Our theme will be “The Incredible HE,” referring to God and His indescribable character.

Summer Camp
We will be dividing up the camps a little differently next summer. This is to accommodate the early August return to school dates and sports practices. Our West Week and Horsemanship camps will remain in June. In July, we will offer one combined Junior Camp week for 3rd-5th graders; followed by Senior High week for 9th-12th graders. The final week will be for middle school students in the 6th-8th grades.

Look for our summer camp information in early 2019.

Be sure to sign up early to save a spot for your young person(s).

Our theme will be “The Incredible HE,” referring to God and His indescribable character.

Schedule

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<tr>
<th>W.E.S.T. Week</th>
<th>June 17 - 22</th>
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<tr>
<td>Horsemanship Camp</td>
<td>June 23 - 26</td>
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<td>Junior Camp</td>
<td>July 14 - 20</td>
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<td>Grades 9 - 12</td>
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<td>Middle Camp</td>
<td>July 28 - August 3</td>
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<td>Grades 6 - 8</td>
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Round-Up

God blessed us with beautiful weather as 157 people gathered for the annual meetings of our associations. There were 20 of our churches represented. Three of our churches shared in leading the worship. Dr. Steve Little gave an inspirational and challenging message, encouraging us to witness for Christ in “our goings,” or in other words, wherever we are. Following lunch, participants played games, enjoyed archery, went on horse rides, took 4x4 firetruck rides, and made ice cream sundaes. Mark your calendar now for November 2, 2019, when we gather for our next Round-up.

New Cabins

Please keep us in prayer as we look at the possibility of increasing the amount of cabin space on the girls’ side of camp. There are 66 beds at Las Flores (girls), and 88 beds at the Bunkhouse (boys). Riverside County’s requirements get stricter and stricter, but we know God will help us accomplish this project if it is His will. Please pray with us for favor in the eyes of the County as we seek the Lord’s leading in all aspects of this project.